

REMARKS

The present application was filed on March 7, 2000, with claims 1-19. Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1-18 are allowed.

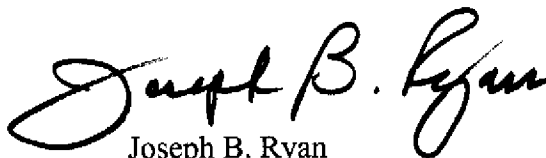
Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.

Applicants have amended claim 19 in a manner which is believed to overcome the rejection under §101. More specifically, the claim is now directed to a computer program product, which is clearly statutory subject matter. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, page 15, lines 1-5.

Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1-19 as amended are in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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